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good the damage would have been awarded against him by the laws of our country. But the illuminations were bought off by a compromise to raise a subscription for the poor. Under the circumstance of its being a commutation for illuminations it cannot however be considered as a voluntary donation. It is not our business to describe the festivities of the day. We rather chuse to balance usefulness against pageantry, the benefits of education against the false splendour of illuminations, and give from the Belfast Commercial Chronicle of the 25th inst an estimate of the comparative expense of supporting a school for the education of the poor, and the cost of illuminating the town of Belfast.

"By a census taken of Belfast, in the year 1803, there were 3514 houses inhabited. At a general illumination to continue for three hours, suppose on an average each house to consume three pounds of candles, at 13d. per pound, the amount would be £571 0. 6. the interest on which would amount yearly to £34 5. 2. By last year's statement of the *Belfast Sunday School*, the whole expenditure was £32 11. 7. where 245 children receive useful instruction, and are put in a fair way of bettering their own condition, and of becoming useful members of civilized society. The reader will decide on the merits of the two expenditures. The contrast will show the general benefit that may accrue, by money being expended on useful purposes."

The illuminations in Dublin have been splendid and costly. A fondness for show, without considering the fitness of the occasion, or the ability to bear the expense, is characteristic of the Irish nation. Our national debt is rapidly increasing. Last year Eng-

land borrowed about ten millions, while Ireland increased her debt by loans of 5,389,728l. It appears to be the present policy of our finance minister to borrow lavishly, and stave off the payment as long as he can. The nation gains a short respite from taxation, and the minister is indulged with present ease. But a heavy load is accumulating, which cannot long be kept back from pressing most heavily on the community, and in the mean time a most profuse, improvident, and wasteful expenditure adds to our burthens. Things cannot go on much longer in the present train. Already the English say that our population and commerce are rapidly encroaching, and call for a commensurate increase of taxation. To those who know Ireland, such reasoning will appear fallacious, and by them her inability to bear much additional weight of taxation is admitted. But sooner or later we shall certainly be called on, and it would be wise in time to husband our resources, and cut off all needless expenditure. In Ireland, the unpaid balances in the hands of collectors amount to 375,483l. 11s. 4d. upon a revenue of between five and six millions, while the balance in the hands of collectors in England, on their prodigious revenue of 67 millions, amounts only to 354,126l. 5s. 4d. The revenue of the Post-office is collected in Scotland, at the rate of 14l. 10s. 2d. per cent. in England at 23l. 2s. 5d. while in Ireland it costs 45l. 3s. 1½d.

The *Writers of the Retrospect for last month, request the readers of the Belfast Monthly Magazine, will excuse some errors of the Press, which escaped in that part, in consequence of hurry in working off the last sheets of that number.*

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM....*Married...* Mr. S. Barber, of Belfast, merchant, to Miss Moore, of Crooked-stone. Mr. J. Cunningham, of Ballyclare, surgeon, to Jane, daughter of the late Mr. H. Houston, of Ballylagan.

Died... At Knocknore, county Antrim, Miss Ann Fulton, aged 18 years. On the

5th inst. aged 45, John Cranston, esq. of Belfast, a good husband, father, and friend. In Belfast, Mrs. Turnly, wife of Alex. Turnly. In Castle-street, Belfast, Miss Brice. At Glenarm, Mr. Andrew Dunn. In Chichester-street, Belfast, Mrs. Caldwell, aged 70; few through life were more useful, or in death more regretted

GRAND FETE AT HILLSBOROUGH.

The birth-day of the Marquis of Downshire, upon the completing of his 21st year, was celebrated at Hillsborough on the 9th instant, and never have we seen a more imposing spectacle than was exhibited there on that day. Upwards of 4,500 persons, tenants of the Kilwarlin estate, sat down to dinner at the same instant, and were plentifully supplied with the best that the season could afford. The bells of Hillsborough church, and the band of the Westmeath militia heightened the scene; witnessed by not less than 4,500 spectators besides those who dined. Our space is too confined to give a further detail of this magnificent fete, suffice it to remark, that the regularity, the decent demeanour, of the people on this occasion, evinced the extent of the influence which a good, generous, and courteous landlord can possess over his tenantry; and let it be an answer to those who are too ready to cast an imputation of mobishness and tumult on every thing Irish.

DOWN...Married...Ross Thompson, jun.

esq. of Newry, to Miss Livingston, of said place.

Died...At Donaghadee, on Friday last, Mrs. Galbraith, widow of H. Galbraith, esq. late Port-surveyor of Larne.

L.DRANV...Married...Robert Ogilby, esq. of Dungiven, to Joice, eldest daughter of James Scott, esq. of Willsborough, in said county.

LBINSTER.

DUBLIN...Married...Mt. Ennis, to Miss Lawton, King's county. Ed. Archdale, esq. third son of Colonel Archdale, of Castle-Archdale, county Fermanagh, to Matilda, second daughter to W. Humphreys, esq. Gardiner's-row.

Died...The Earl of Arran, one of the Knights of St. Patrick. He is succeeded in his title by Lord Sudley. Mr. Arthur Martin, of Duke-street. In Mecklinburgh-street, Joseph M. Rainsford, esq.

MUNSTER.

CORK...Married...At Cork, B. Watkins, esq. First Lieutenant of the Druid frigate, to Miss Meade, of that city.

Died...At Cork, James Bennett, esq. M.D.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From September 20, till October 20.

SOON after the report for last month was sent to the press, a favourable change took place in the weather, which has continued with very little intermission ever since, and the crops of course have been generally got safe in, except in the early part of the change, that some farmers were induced, by a fear of the return of wet weather, to stack their grain before it was quite fit for it.

The wheat crops are evidently defective in a general way, through the province of Ulster, and the flour made from the new grain is much complained of; in the more southerly quarters of the kingdom, it is said to be much better.

Oats will prove a good average crop in a general way, and the complaints of the thinness of the barley crops now appear to have less foundation, than was at first apprehended.

The taking up the potatoes is in great forwardness, and they appear to turn out of the ground a tolerable crop, and are sold in the markets at a reasonable price; there has seldom happened a finer season for the purpose; if those who plant their potatoes in the drill way, would get into the practice of raising them with the plough, instead of the spade, they would save themselves much trouble and expense, labourers are now become so scarce, and the price of labour so much raised, that it behoves the farmer to adopt every eligible plan that would reduce his expenses, and enable him to meet the great increase of rent.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

IN the wide spreading devastations of war, as nations became more commercial, it was to be expected that commerce should especially feel its effects as one of the means of annoyance towards enemies. Neutrals also were involved; and the haughty combatants of either side refused to permit a free intercourse of the neutral flag; first, under pretence of preventing the contraband of war, such as naval stores, &c. being carried; and in this war, the difficulties to neutrals have been further extended by the fiction of declaring whole countries in a state of blockade, when their ports were not actually invested. This is one object of contest between this government and the United States of North America. Bonaparte, with the usual dexterity which he employs to bring the principles of reform to his aid, in a letter from the minister of